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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 23, 2012

Senate Bill 442, An Act Concerning The Prevention Of
Urban Youth Delinquency And Violence

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to Section 1 of Senate Bill 442, *An Act Concerning the Prevention of Urban Youth Delinquency and Violence*. This section requires the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to collaborate with private providers in one city, Hartford, to inventory programs and services designed to promote positive youth development, design a process for identifying at-risk youth for referral to such programs, and submit a report to the General Assembly specifying the programs inventoried and the referral process designed.

We would respectfully submit that this mandate is beyond the scope of CSSD. This bill would expand the role of CSSD into services for youth with no involvement with the criminal justice system. Asking CSSD personnel to assume this function, within available resources, will divert their resources away from their responsibility to serve court-involved youth. Should the Committee act favorably on this bill, we would ask that section 1 be stricken.

Thank you for your consideration.